TRAVANCORE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

(*OFFICIAL REPORT.*)

Monday, 4th August, 1924.

The Council met again in the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall at Eleven Thirty-four of the Clock, with the President in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[*Order made by the President under Standing Order No. 12*

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table 15 minutes before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions shall be put and answered in the following manner :—

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellator in serial order, specify the serial number of his questions and make a sufficient pause to allow him a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place, if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

Mr. Ignasimuttu, Teacher.

35. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether they are aware of the appreciation of the services of Mr. Ignasimuttu, who was transferred from the Kottar English High School to Shencottah, by the public of Nagercoil and the protest meeting held in Nagercoil about his transfer ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that Mr. Ignasimuttu was highly spoken of by Dr. Clark, Mr. Pryde and the earlier Head-masters of the Kottar English High School ; and

(*c*) why Mr. Ignasimuttu, who has put in a service of ten years in the Education Department and nine years in the schools of the State, has not been promoted to the first grade, while Mr. T. S. Pitchu Aiyangar, B. A., L. T., was promoted after less than two years, Messrs. G. Srinivasa Tatachari and S. V. Ramaswami Aiyar, after about six years, and scores of others, after eight years ?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) The answer to the first part is in the negative. As regards the second part, the member is referred to the answer to question No. 513 [345] (*a*) asked by Mr. Paul V. Daniel at the meeting of the Council held on the 12th June, 1924.

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[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

(*b*) The teaching work of Mr. Ignasimuttu was well spoken of by Dr. Clark and Messrs. Pryde and Ramakrishna Kukilaya.

(*c*) Promotion to the first grade is given not merely on grounds of length of service. As regards Mr. T. S. Pitchu Aiyangar, B. A., L. T., the member is referred to the answer to question No. 254 [399] asked by Mr. T. M. Chidambaratanu Pillai at the meeting of the Council held on the 19th January, 1924. Mr. G. Srinivasa Tatachari was promoted to the first grade as he was recommended as fit for promotion by his immediate superiors. There is no officer named S. V. Ramaswami Aiyar in the department.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Are the Government aware that Mr. Ignasimuttu is one of the very few Roman Catholics in the Education Department?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Are they aware that he passed his B. A. with first class results in 1905, qualified himself for the A. C. P. diploma of London in 1909, and took the L. T. in 1917, scoring two distinctions and the first place in the Training College at Trivandrum?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I wish to hear that question once more. It consists of a number of parts.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Are the Government aware that he passed his B. A. with first class results in 1905?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Are they aware that he qualified himself for the A. C. P. diploma of London in 1909?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Are they aware that he ook the L. T. in 1917, scoring two distinctions and the first place in the Training College at Trivandrum?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Are they aware that Mr. Pryde, when he was Inspector of English Schools, wrote about him that he was the best teacher of English in Secondary Schools?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The answer is there. His teaching work has been spoken of well by Mr. Pryde.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): But my question is whether the Government are aware that Mr. Pryde wrote of him about the end

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of 1922 that he was the best English teacher in the Secondary School Department of the State.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I am not aware of that.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Are they aware that even after he joined the service he was teaching in the School Final Class the most important subject, *viz.*, English, almost during the whole period?

PRESIDENT: English is the most important subject. Is that what you mean to say?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Yes, Sir, I think so.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): He was teaching English in Form VI of the Kottar English High School.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is it a fact that he is put to teach in the lower forms at Shencottah?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): He has been asked to teach English in Form III also at Shencottah.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Are they aware that he has submitted memorials to the Director of Public Instruction?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): In regard to what?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): About his claims being superseded from time to time.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I am not aware.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will they be pleased to enquire from the Director of Public Instruction or by writing direct to Mr. Ignasimuttu whether he has been from time to time submitting memorials regarding his claims being superseded?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Government see no reason to enquire into that.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Answer to part (*c*) says that promotion depends on length of service.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): It is said: "promotion to the first grade is given not merely on grounds of length of service."

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What does the answer to the question asked by Mr. Daniel say?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The member will have to refer to that answer.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Did not that answer say that promotion to the first grade depends upon length of service in the second grade?

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[Mr. S. Paramesvara Aiyar.]

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Promotion depends *not merely* on length of service.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What else then?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The amount of pay drawn by the teacher in the second grade at the time a vacancy arises in the first grade is another criterion. That is a very important consideration.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Did not Mr. Ignasimuttu draw the highest pay then?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): No, he did not. His pay now is only Rs. 80.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What was his pay then?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): It must have been less, Rs. 65 or Rs. 70.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What else are the criteria in the matter of promotion from the second grade to the first grade?

PRESIDENT: You are repeating the question.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): One or two reasons have been given. What are the other criteria?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I have already stated that, besides length of service, the amount of pay drawn by a certain teacher in the second grade at the time a vacancy arises in the first grade is taken into consideration. Another ground is the higher qualification of the teacher. The teacher may be an M. A., or a B. A. (Hons.) and so on. In such cases, the superior qualification is taken into consideration.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Am I to understand that all those who superseded Mr. Ignasimuttu have superior claims—greater length of service and higher pay than he?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): If any have gone above, they might have had one or other of the higher claims referred to by me.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What about the certificate of Mr. Pryde?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I am not aware that Mr. Pryde ever stated that he was the very best teacher in the department.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to enquire whether Mr. Pryde made any such statement?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Government do not propose to do so.

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MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): In the interests of Mr. Ignasimuttu, I beg to request the Government to make that enquiry.

Complaints against Head-master, English High School, Kottar.

36. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are aware of the complaints against the Head-master of the Kottar English High School?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Government are aware that certain complaints have been made against the Head-master, English High School, Kottar. The complaints have been enquired into and found to be groundless.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What was the nature of the complaints that were made against the Head-master?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The member wants to know the nature of the complaints.

PRESIDENT: I do not think it strictly arises out of the question, but you may answer.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): It was stated in the petition that he was wanting in sympathy, that he awarded unreasonable punishments, that his attitude towards the local non-Brahmins was hostile and that his treatment of the parents of school children was not considerate. These were the grounds alleged in the complaint.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): By whom was the complaint made?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): By Mr. Kumaraswami Pillai.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): May I know who he is?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Mr. Kumaraswami Pillai was a member of the Popular Assembly; but it was ascertained on enquiry that the petition was neither signed nor written by him.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What was the sort of enquiry? By whom and through whom was the enquiry made?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The enquiry was made by the Inspector of English Schools.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Am I to understand that no independent enquiry was made?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Independent of whom?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Independent of the Inspector of English Schools.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): No since the Inspector found that the complaints were groundless.

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